OWANEKO,

Chief *Sachem* or Prince

OF THE

Mohegan-Indians in *New-England*,

HIS

Letter to a Genleman

Now in LONDON.

Faithfully Translated from the Original in the Indian *Language.*

And his CASE annexed.

MY Loving Friend Mr. *N. H.* I am informed you are bound for *Old England*: Let me Request you to make Me and my Request known to the Great Queen *Anne*, and to her Noble Council; First of Our Hereditary Right to the Soyl and Royalties of our Dominions and Territories, before the *English* came into the Country; insomuch that all due Loyalty and Obedience is not confer'd on us by the *English*, but by the gods; who gave us a Token, as an Earnest and Pledge of Our happy Reign here; and also (as Our Old *Seers* construed) a more ample Reign in the other Region. Wherefore the gods sent to that Royal Family one of their Own Tobacco-Pipes; which strange

Wonderment was taken up on the *Beach* at *Seabrook*, or thereabouts; it being like Ivory, with two Stems, and the Bole in the middle. This ſtrange Pipe, not made by Man, is kept choicer than Gold, from Generation to Generation; animates all the Royal Society, with a full Perſwaſion, That the ſaid Token is ſufficient Evidence, that they ſhall ſet amongſt the gods in the long Hunting-Houſe, and there ſmoak Tobacco, as the higheſt Point of Honour and Dignity; and where there will be great Feaſting of Fat *Bear*, *Dear* and *Mooſe*, all Joy and Mirth to Welcome their Entertainment.

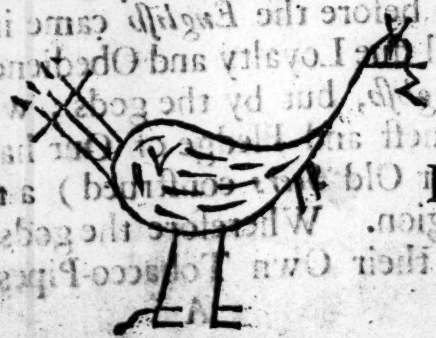
Alſo in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, his Majeſty ſent us a Bible and a Sword; which Preſent we very thankfully Accepted; and kept them in the Treaſury, as choice as we do the aforeſaid gods Pipe, hoping it may be a Safe-Guard and Shield to Defend us: And we, in Proceſs of time, may reap great Benefit thereby, and attain to the Knowledge of the true and living God. But of late I met with great Diſcouragements, and know not what will become of our People, by reaſon of Oppreſſion.

The Court of *Hartford* I underſtand have given all my Planting and Hunting Land away to *Colcheſter* and *New-London*: So that if I obtain not Relief from the Great Queen's Majeſty, my People will be in great Temptation to ſcatter from Me, and flee to the *Eaſtern Indians*, the *French*'s Friends, and the *Engliſh*'s Enemies.

Pray, Sir, Remember my Love and Service to the Great Queen *Ann*, and her Noble Council.

July 14. 1703.

Owaneko His Mark.



The CASE.

Owaneko, and his Anceſtors, were formerly Chief Princes, and Owners of All, or great Part of the Country now called *Conecticot-Colony* in *New-England*: And when the *Engliſh* firſt came, theſe *Indians* received them very kindly, and for a very ſmall and inconſiderable Value, parted with all or moſt of their Lands to the *Engliſh*, reſerving to themſelves only a ſmall Quantity of Land to Plant upon, and Hunt in.

Theſe *Mohegan Indians* have always lived Peaceably and Friendly with the *Engliſh*, and aſſiſted them in their Wars againſt the other *Indians*; and have, until of late, quietly enjoy'd their reſerved Lands. But about a Year or two ago, the General Aſſembly of *Conecticot-Colony* made an Act for adding theſe Lands to the Townſhips of *Colcheſter* and *New-London*, two Towns in that Colony; ſince which they have been laid out into divers Farms for the *Engliſh*; and theſe poor *Indians* have been unjuſtly turn'd out of Poſſeſſion, and are thereby deſtitute of all means of Subſiſtence. Of all which, Complaint has been made to her Majeſty, who out of her great Juſtice and Goodneſs has been Graciouſly pleaſed to order a Commiſſion to be directed to ſeveral Loyal and Worthy Gentlemen in *New-England*, (no ways intereſted) to Enquire into, Examine, Hear and Determine this Matter; reſerving an Appeal to her Majeſty.

London, Printed for *Daniel Brown* at the *Black Swan* without *Temple-Bar*, 1704.

The CASE

OWners, and his Ancestors, were formerly Chief Princes, and Owners of All or great Part of the Country now called Connecticot-Colony in New-England: And when the English first came, these Indians received them very kindly, and for a very small and inconsiderable Value, parted with all or most of their Lands to the English, reserving to themselves only a small Quantity of Land to Plant upon, and Hunt in.

These Mohegan Indians have always lived Peaceably and Friendly with the English, and assisted them in their Wars against the other Indians; and have, until of late, quietly enjoy'd their reserved Lands. But about a Year or two ago, the General Assembly of Connecticot-Colony made an Act for adding these Lands to the Townships of Colchester and New-London, two Towns in that Colony; three which they have been laid out into divers Farms for the English; and these poor Indians have been unjustly turn'd out of Possession, and are thereby depriv'd of all means of Subsistence. Of all which, Complaint has been made to her Majesty, who out of her great Justice and Goodness has been Graciously pleased to order a Commission to be directed to Persons Loyal and Worthy Gentlemen in New-England, (to whom is referred) to Enquire into, Examine, Hear and Determine this Matter; reserving an Appeal to her Majesty,

BRITISH MUSEUM

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